

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike~~through.

JAB  
10/16/06

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 2, <sup>line 1</sup>~~lines 3-4~~, with the following paragraph:

In this example, two electric discharge sections 3a, 3b each having an electric discharge tube are excited by the respective power sources 1a, 1b. The power sources 1a, 1b supply ~~alternative~~alternating current and thus the electric discharges generated in the electric discharge sections 3a, 3b are ~~alternative~~alternating electric discharges.

JAB  
10/16/06

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 4, <sup>line 21</sup>~~lines 25-26~~, with the following paragraph:

FIGS. 2a-2c are schematic cross-sections of an electric discharge section of the laser oscillator, in which FIG. 2a shows a force exerted on an electric discharge current in excitation of coils, FIGS. 2a and 2b show influences of the force on an electric discharge current which varies in accordance with a phase of an ~~alternative~~alternating electric-discharge excitation current and FIG. 2d shows a state of the electric discharge current in one cycle of the ~~alternative~~alternating electric-discharge current;

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10/16/02

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 5, <sup>line 26</sup>~~lines 1 and 2~~, with the following paragraph:

The medium gas circulates along circulating paths through the optical resonating space by a blower 6 as shown by an arrow 7. The medium gas discharged from the blower 6 passes through a heat exchanger 5a, for ~~remove-removing~~ compression heat, and is then supplied to the electric discharge sections 3a, 3b. In the electric discharge sections 3a, 3b, the medium gas is pumped by electric discharge between the electrodes 2a, 2b to generate a laser beam. The generated laser beam is amplified by the optical resonator and outputted from the output mirror 4b according to the well known principle. The gas medium heated by the electric discharge is cooled by the heat exchanger 5b to return to the blower 6.

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10/16/02

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 5, <sup>19</sup>~~line 21-22~~, with the following paragraph:

The electric discharge sections 3a, 3b have electrodes 2a, 2b respectively, and the electrodes 2a are connected with an electric discharge power source 1a and the electrodes 2b are connected with an electric discharge power source 1b. The electric discharge power sources 1a, 1b are ~~alternative~~ alternating current power supply for supplying ~~alternative~~ alternating power to the respective electric discharge sections 3a, 3b. The sources 1a, 1b are connected to a controller 10 so that ON/OFF and adjustment of the electric power to be supplied are performed.

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10/16/02

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 6, <sup>19</sup>~~line 22~~, with the following paragraph:

The coil exciting circuits 9a-9d for exciting the respective coils 8a-8d are connected to a controller 10 so that intensities and directions of exciting currents to be flown in the coils 8a-8d are respectively controlled. In this embodiment, direct currents are flown in the coils as the excitation currents. The excitation currents may be ~~alternative~~ alternating currents, as described later.